



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2015 at 9:05 am

by
Jan Gouveia
Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

HB 457 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the opportunity to strongly support HB 457 HD1, which acknowledges the importance of having adequate resources to not only comply with the federal requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA), but effectively advance the spirit and intent of such laws.

In 2013, President Obama signed a bill that strengthened and reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Included in the bill was the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (Campus SaVE), which amends the Jeanne Clery Act and affords additional rights to campus victims of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. To this end, effective July 2015, every post-secondary institution who receives federal funds is affected with additional reporting, policy and procedural requirements – as they relate to sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

At the University, each campus is responsible for ensuring compliance with Title IX and VAWA. From an organizational standpoint, this is primarily executed through a designated Title IX coordinator. Historically, such a designation was assigned to an existing University official already tasked with other related duties. However, given the increased requirements associated with VAWA, the University believes dedicated, full-time Title IX coordinators for each 4-year campus and the Community Colleges system with specific experience and knowledge in the areas of sex discrimination and sexual violence are warranted.

Additionally, the increased program, procedural, and investigatory requirements associated with VAWA across all ten (10) campuses also warrant additional dedicated, full-time professionals with specific experience and knowledge in the areas of sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct. The bill supports a centralized approach to meeting these requirements at the system level because many of the issues, policies, programs, and training are better addressed from a comprehensive approach instead of each campus individually developing their own programs. This centralized approach advances principles of operational efficiency and economies of scale.

In closing, the University strongly supports HB 457 HD1 because it acknowledges the importance of having adequate resources to comply with and advance the federal requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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SYSTEM

Testimony presented to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2015 at 9:05 am
By
Farrah-Marie Gomes, Chair

HB 457, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 457, HD 1 that appropriates funds for positions and materials to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. My name is Farrah-Marie Gomes and I present this testimony as Chair of the University of Hawai‘i President’s Commission on the Status of Women (UH-CSW).

The UH-CSW strongly supports this bill. Formed in 1972 at the UH Manoa campus, the UH-CSW expanded in 1986 to include faculty, staff and students appointed by the President of the University of Hawaii, with representatives from our system offices and 10 campuses across the State. The UH-CSW is committed to supporting the well-being, development, and advancement of all University women. The Commission actively promotes a working and learning environment free of sexism and discrimination through policy, advocacy and education.

This mission is achieved through serving as a conduit for information between the administration and the total University community by making recommendations to the UH President on issues that have particular relevance for women, including, but not limited to safety and security, equity, access, retention, and advancement; fostering an awareness, understanding and recognition of the potential, contributions, special challenges and many roles women play in a University community; and developing alliances with like organizations throughout the community, state, and nation.

The positions and materials requested through this bill will enable the University of Hawai‘i system to comply with recently expanded mandates relating to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which are at the core of the mission of our Commission on the Status of Women.

For the reasons stated above and on behalf of our commission, I strongly encourage the Committee to support HB 457, HD 1. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, April 6, 2015, 9:05 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of H.B. 457, HD1

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (“PPHI”) writes in support of H.B. 457, HD1, which appropriates moneys for positions and materials to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy. To that end, we are proud to stand in support of this legislation and to offer our support as a leading sexual and reproductive health care provider. The intersections of gender-based violence and reproductive health are clear. At PPHI, we work to meet the needs of survivors—and to prevent sexual assault from ever happening—in all areas of our work, from screening for intimate partner violence, to advocating for policies that support comprehensive sexual education, including teaching about healthy relationships and consent.

The need for action on college sexual assault in Hawaii is urgent. An estimated one in four women and three percent of men in the United States experience an attempted or completed rape while in college. Moreover, the University of Hawaii system is under federal investigation for Title IX violations and sexual violence case mishandling. This is unacceptable.

While H.B. 457 would help strengthen campus resources and supportive services for college students, but education about healthy relationships and consent needs to start much earlier than college. In addition to these efforts, we need comprehensive sexual education in every school, starting in kindergarten, to make sure students learn about healthy relationships many years before they even think about going to college or entering into intimate relationships. Gaps in Hawaii’s sexual health education have a significant impact on young people’s well-being and future relationships.

We urge the legislature to pass H.B. 457 and further, call on the legislature to ensure that comprehensive, age-appropriate sexual health education is provided to every student, every year, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 457.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

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